

## **SCOPING STATEMENT**

### **Rocktober Unit Project**

#### **Bill Barrett Corporation and Bureau of Land Management, Cody Field Office**

#### **Description of Project**

Bill Barrett Corporation (BBC) has applied to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for authorization to drill two exploratory gas wells and associated facilities in the Rocktober Federal Unit. Five additional wells and facilities may also be proposed pending results of the first two.

This scoping notice encompasses the proposed analysis of the seven wells and associated facilities.

The seven wells, which may be drilled on BLM surface, include access roads, gas pipelines, water wells, a compressor station, and other facilities. The wells would be located based on geological information obtained during the Red Point Seismic Exploration project (EA No. WY-020-EA07-58/WYW-165810) approved by the BLM Cody Field Office in July 2007, and conducted during the fall of 2007. Produced gas would be routed to the south to an existing Colorado Interstate Gas pipeline for transport to market. Any well that does not produce commercial quantities of natural gas would be plugged and abandoned and the site reclaimed to BLM standards.

The proposed project area is situated on approximately 12 sections inside the Rocktober Federal Unit in the McCullough Peaks Area. The area is located 22 miles east of Cody, north of State Highway 14, 16, 20, and occupying portions of Townships 52-53 North and Ranges 98-99 West, in Park County, Wyoming.

#### **Known Resource Concerns**

The proposed project lies within the McCullough Peaks Travel Management Area. Three of the seven wells are situated within the McCullough Peaks Herd Management Area (HMA). One of those three wells currently has an APD filed. Preliminary internal scoping by the BLM interdisciplinary team identified resource concerns including, but not limited to, sage grouse, cultural resources, paleontological resources, wild horses, recreation, and visual resources.

#### **Relationship to Existing Plans and Documents**

The Cody Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, approved in 1990, direct management of federal lands in the project area.

#### **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

The BLM conducts environmental assessments in compliance with NEPA and regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality. Environmental analyses serve several purposes:

- provide information about potential environmental consequences of a project
- identify means to minimize or avoid environmental harm resulting from a project
- provide information to make an informed decision regarding the project

The document will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists.

Public scoping is an element of the NEPA process. Scoping activities are initiated early in the process to:

- identify reasonable alternatives to be evaluated in the analysis;
- identify environmental issues of concern related to the proposed project; and
- determine the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the environmental assessment.

This scoping statement has been prepared to enable governmental agencies, the general public, and other interested parties to participate in the analysis. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for a NEPA document, and the BLM encourages public participation.

### **Scoping Meeting**

A public meeting will be held to provide further information on the proposed project. The meeting will be conducted in open-house format with BLM specialists and representatives of the project proponent in attendance. Maps and documents will be available for review and comment forms will be provided. Written comments will be accepted at the meeting or may be mailed.

An open house is planned for:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 6 pm to 8 pm BIGHORN FEDERAL COMMUNITY ROOM 1701 STAMPEDE AVENUE CODY, WY
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### **Timing Requirements**

Comments are due by October 10, 2008 and should be submitted to:

Ann Perkins, Planning and Environmental Coordinator  
BLM – Cody Field Office  
PO Box 518  
Cody, WY 82414

307.578.5928

E-mail: [cody\\_wymail@blm.gov](mailto:cody_wymail@blm.gov)

Project documents and information can be found at:

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cyfodocs/Rocktober.html>

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